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## Council of College Presidents Meeting Recap

The Council of Presidents recently met on Monday, August 13th at the USC Alumni Center in Columbia. Attendance included representation from the four-year institutions, technical colleges and the CHE Commissioners. The following topics were discussed:

**Five-Year Budget Plans**

Early this summer the CHE requested that the institutions send the agency their five-year budget plans. During the discussion of this topic, the institutional presidents stated that they did not have five-year budget plans in place, stating that uncertainty surrounding too many variables prevented them from creating them. While CHE Chairman, Tim Hofferth, and President and Executive Director, Jeff Schilz, explained that almost every business or organization has a five-year plan and they are typically based on projections, the institutions stated that their funding was so volatile and the plan would be inaccurate. CHE Commissioners reiterated their request and committed to help in any way necessary.

**Student Bill of Rights**

Chairman Hofferth asked the Council members for feedback on the Student Bill of Rights. The Council did not have any specific recommendations or changes but stated that the members of their respective student government organizations would be meeting to review the document and provide feedback in the future. CHE has not yet received this feedback but looks forward to reviewing any proposals that come up in the future. To view the Student Bill of Rights, click [here](#).

**Bond Bill**

The meeting featured two guest speakers. The first, S.C. Senate Budget Director, Mike Shealy, discussed the possibility of a bond bill passing next legislative session. Mr. Shealy stated that although the money may be there and there may be an appetite in the General Assembly for discussing a possible bond bill for higher education, that passage of a bond bill would likely face many hurdles. You can view his presentation [here](#).

**Higher Education Opportunity Act**

The next speaker, S.C. Senator Vincent Sheheen, discussed his plans for higher education reform via the Higher Education Opportunity Act, which he filed late last session and intends to file again this upcoming session. The Act has many components, including freezing tuition for one year, increasing funding for Need-Based Grants, and funneling more money to the state's public colleges and universities. The CHE appreciates Senator Sheheen's willingness to focus on this important issue and looks forward to working with him over the next several months as the legislation evolves. To read the bill, click [here](#).

## Palmetto Promise Scholarship Pilot

In 2017, the General Assembly funded a new scholarship program as a pilot for the residents of Williamsburg County that attended Williamsburg Technical College. The goal was to increase college attendance and completion by alleviating the financial burdens associated with college. In its first semester, the program increased the number of incoming local-area high school graduates from 13 to 30 percent.

This year, the General Assembly expanded the pilot to include \$3.9 million for a Palmetto Promise Scholarship Pilot as part of the Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget. It now includes 33 additional districts and it is intended to assist recent high school graduates in some of South Carolina's poorest counties in accessing higher education via the state's technical colleges. The Palmetto Promise Scholarship is a "last-dollar" scholarship. Subject to funding by the General Assembly, the scholarship must cover the cost of tuition, mandatory fees, program fees, and books, up to a maximum of \$2,000 in the fiscal year, minus any gift aid such as Pell Grants, Tuition Grants, LIFE Scholarships and Lottery Tuition Assistance (LTA), which must be credited first. The scholarship covers two semesters or until the student earns a diploma or associates degree, whichever comes first.

Below are the participating school districts:

- Abbeville
- Allendale
- Bamberg 1 and 2
- Barnwell 19, 29, and 45
- Berkeley
- Chesterfield
- Clarendon 1, 2 and 3
- Dillon 3 and 4
- Florence 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5
- Hampton 1 and 2
- Jasper
- Laurens 55 and 56
- Lee
- Lexington 4
- Marion
- Marlboro
- McCormick
- Orangeburg 3, 4, and 5
- Saluda
- Williamsburg

To qualify, an applying student must have earned a high school diploma or GED between 2013 and 2018 while residing within one of the eligible school districts and must complete the Promise Scholarship application and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Once enrolled, to continue to receive the scholarship, the student must enroll in at least six credit hours during the semester, maintain a 2.0 grade point average and participate in a mentoring program.

The program is expected to boost enrollment at some of the state's rural technical colleges and result in more high school graduates entering higher education. Efforts like these will help move the state further toward the CHE's goal of reaching 60% of the state's working-age population in possession of a post-secondary degree or credential by 2025.

## Governor Signs Bill Allowing Technical Colleges to Offer Applied Baccalaureate in Advanced Manufacturing Technology

Governor Henry McMaster held a ceremonial bill signing on Wednesday, August 22nd at Greenville Technical College for H.4931, which will allow technical colleges to offer an applied baccalaureate in advanced manufacturing technology. The bill was passed by the General Assembly earlier this year. Each institution interested in offering the degree will first need to seek approval from the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, CHE, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

"With one of the greatest technical college systems in the world, it makes perfect sense that we would give South Carolinians the opportunity to utilize those institutions of higher learning to contribute to one of the fastest-growing manufacturing industries in the country," said Governor McMaster. "I'm proud to have signed this bill into law and grateful for the impact it will have on our efforts to strengthen South Carolina's workforce for generations to come."

The bill signing was attended by CHE President and Executive Director, Jeff Schilz, S.C. Technical College System President, Dr. Tim Hardee, as well as several legislators, including Senator Ross Turner and the bill's primary sponsor, S.C. Representative Jason Elliott. Click [here](#) to read the bill.

## Innovative Partnerships

Many of South Carolina's colleges and universities are forging unique partnerships with private industry. These partnerships allow students to receive "hands-on" experience and allow industry to influence the training received by the future workforce. Two of our research universities recently entered into new partnerships worth noting:

- Clemson University announced that it has partnered with Greenville Health System (GHS) to create a nursing-education collaboration that is expected to lessen the impact of the nursing shortage and enhance the education of "nurses-in-training." Juniors in Clemson's nursing program will study both at Clemson and at GHS' Greenville Memorial Medical Campus, and complete their clinical rotations at GHS sites. This innovative model will result in nurses who are highly trained and prepared to matriculate into the workforce and will simultaneously meet the growing demand for individuals with a baccalaureate degree in nursing. Read more about this partnership in the *Greenville News* [here](#).
- The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) announced that it has entered into a 10-year partnership with Siemens, an industrial manufacturing company. The partnership will focus on using Siemens' artificial intelligence abilities within the MUSC system, allowing physicians to treat patients individually based on data from the outcomes of other patients. The agreement will also focus on reducing the wait times for stroke patients, which could save \$2.2 million in follow-up care and \$1.7 million in long-term disability for working-age adults. Leaders state that there will be many other projects forthcoming and they are looking to a steering committee, which includes representatives of both MUSC and Siemens, to guide the work and progress moving forward. Read more about this partnership in *The Post and Courier* [here](#).

CHE commends these institutions for developing innovative programs to enhance the education of students and meet the demands of the workforce and industry in the state.

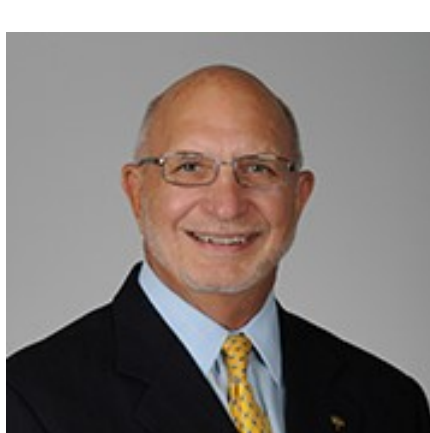
## CHE Commissioner Updates

**New Commissioners**

CHE is pleased to welcome two new commissioners: Dr. Linda L. Dolny and The Honorable James A. "Jim" Battle, Jr. Dr. Dolny is Chairman of the Lander University Board of Trustees and represents the four-year comprehensive university sector with a term of July 1, 2018, through July 1, 2020. Mr. Battle is a former member of the South Carolina House of Representatives and is a current member of the Medical University of South Carolina Board of Trustees and represents the research university sector with a term of July 1, 2018, through July 1, 2020.



Dr. Linda L. Dolny



The Honorable James A. "Jim" Battle, Jr.

**Thanks to Departing Commissioners**

Two commissioners recently concluded their service on the commission: Colonel Allison Dean Love, representing the four-year comprehensive sector, and Dr. Louis Lynn, representing the research university sector. Colonel Love is a member of The Citadel Board of Visitors and served as a member of CHE for three years. Dr. Lynn is a member of the Clemson Board of Trustees and served for over six years as a member of CHE, first from 2006 to 2009 and most recently from 2015 –2018.



Colonel Allison Dean Love

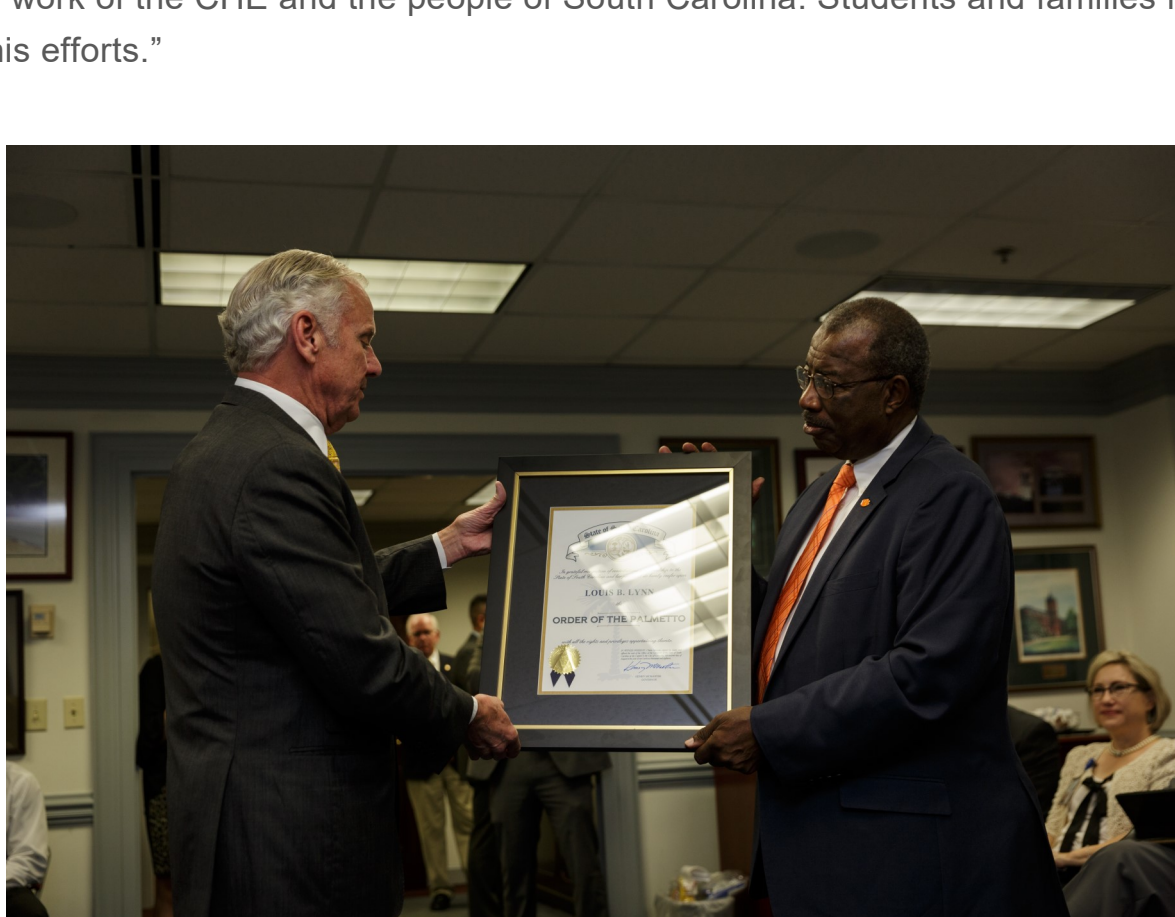


Dr. Louis Lynn

Recently, Governor Henry McMaster presented Dr. Lynn with the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor in the state of South Carolina in a ceremony at the CHE on August 2nd. In his remarks, Governor McMaster - who noted he also previously served as a member of the Commission on Higher Education - stated that he chose to award Dr. Lynn the Order of the Palmetto for his contributions not only to education, but also to the South Carolina community as a whole.

CHE Chairman, Tim Hofferth, also praised Dr. Lynn for his work both on the Commission and in the community, stating:

"On behalf of the whole Commission, I want to congratulate Louis on receiving this prestigious award. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this honor. He is a person who knows what he stands for, is true to his beliefs, and always tries to do the right thing. His selfless dedication to duty and service have had a profound impact on the work of the CHE and the people of South Carolina. Students and families for years to come will benefit from his efforts."



## National Articles

- [The Wall Street Journal, Back-to-School Advice for College Trustees](#)

"There is one educational contingent that won't find much help in the pens-and-paper department: incoming college trustees. Only about half of public institutions provide training for newly arrived board members."

- [The New York Times, The Student Debt Problem Is Worse Than We Imagined](#)

"The share of students facing serious struggles rose to 30 percent overall. Collectively, these borrowers owed over \$23 billion, including more than \$9 billion in default. Nationally, those are crisis-level results, and they reveal how colleges are benefiting from billions in financial aid while students are left with debt they cannot repay."